

Please add new claims 8 and 9 as follows:

Q2 Claim 8. (New) Excipient in preparation intended in particular for a pharmaceutical field, comprising pulverulent mannitol as produced in Claim 4.

Claim 9. (New) Excipient for powder for filling hard capsules, comprising pulverulent mannitol as produced in Claim 4.

CONCLUSION

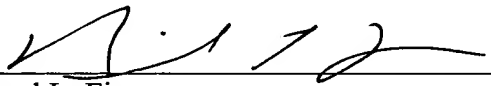
Favorable action is most earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions, or wishes to discuss this matter, please contact the undersigned at the telecommunication numbers listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Erik LABERGERIE, Philippe LEFEVRE and Jose LIS

3-28-01  
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Version with markings to show changes made

Claim 6. (Amended) Excipient in preparation intended in particular for a pharmaceutical field, comprising pulverulent mannitol according to Claim 1 [or pulverulent mannitol as produced in Claim 4].

Claim 7. (Amended) Excipient for powder for filling hard capsules, comprising pulverulent mannitol according to Claim 1 [or pulverulent mannitol as produced in Claim 4].